



10-31-06

RCE/1728
WJ#

PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE U.S. PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE
Express Mail Label No. EV 908 858 664 US

Attorney Docket No.: Ace 12

October 30, 2006

Mail Stop RCE
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL

Sir:

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 CFR
\$1.114 of the below-identified pending utility or plant application:

Serial No.: 10/523 579

Filing Date: January 28, 2005

Confirmation No.: 1367

Title: BUTT WELDING APPARATUS AND BUTT WELDING METHOD

Inventors: (1) Yutaka MIYAMOTO, (2) Takao MINAGAWA,
(3) Shinichi INAGAKI and (4) Kiyoyuki FUKUI

Group: 1725

Examiner: Kerns

Please direct correspondence to the address associated with the
following customer number:

23474FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C.
(FIRM)

1. Submission required under 37 CFR \$1.114
 - a. ☐ An amendment under 37 CFR \$1.116 previously filed on _____ was not entered. Please enter before calculating the filing fee.
 - b. ☒ Enclosed is/are:
 - i. ☒ Amendment/Response (please enter before calculating the filing fee)
 - ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
 - iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
 - iv. ☒ Acknowledgment Post Card
 - v. ☐ _____

2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Small entity status is claimed. See 37 CFR 1.27.
☐ Statement(s) re small entity is/are enclosed.

b. ☐ _____.

3. Fees (The RCE fee under 37 CFR \$1.17(e) is required by 37 CFR \$1.114 when the RCE is filed).

- a. ☒ The RCE fee and any filing fee for claims are calculated as shown below, after entering any amendments which this transmittal indicates are to be entered prior to such calculation:

For	No. Filed	No. Extra	(X) LG Entity	RATE	() SM Entity	Fee
Basic RCE Fee				\$790.00	\$395.00	\$790.00
Total Claims	(22 - 22 = 0)		x \$ 50.00		x \$ 25.00	
Indep. Claims	(2 - 3 = 0)		x 200.00		x \$100.00	
[] Multiple Dep. Claim			+ \$360.00		+ \$180.00	
* * * TOTAL FILING FEE * * *						\$ 790.00

- b. ☒ Pursuant to 37 CFR \$1.136(a), please extend the shortened period for response by one month. The extension fee is:
☒ \$120.00 (37 CFR \$1.17)
☐ \$ (37 CFR \$1.17; small entity status established by verified statement(s) submitted previously).
- c. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 CFR \$1.103(c) for a period of _____ months. (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months). Suspension of action fee is \$_____ (37 CFR \$1.17(i)).
- d. ☒ A check for \$910.00 is enclosed to cover fees.
- e. ☐ Please charge my Deposit Account No. 06-1382 in the amount of \$_____. A duplicate copy of this transmittal is enclosed.
- f. ☒ The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional application processing fees under 37 CFR \$1.17 associated with this communication or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 06-1382. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

The undersigned is: ☒ an attorney of record
☐ acting under 37 CFR §1.34.

Please direct all telephone calls to the undersigned at
telephone number (269) 381-1156.

Respectfully submitted,

FLYNN, THIEL, BOUTELL & TANIS, P.C.

IN DUPLICATE

TFC/smd

Encl: Listed above

106.12/05



Terryence F. Chapman
Reg. No. 32 549